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ABSTRACT

To identify and make available reading-related Bible references for reading teachers, a computerized text of the 1611 King James Bible was generated, using reading-related terms extracted from Bible concordances and student papers. Such words as "read," book," "word," "study," and "language" generated about 4,800 references. Thirteen annotated reference lists organized by topic were then constructed from those passages considered to have substantial relevance to the teaching of reading. The 13 topics included: reading teachers; importance of reading; reading purposes and promises; effects of reading; reading difficulty; language and words; reading comprehension; readiness; methods; research, writing, and publication; readability; reading and Christ; and censorship. The analysis revealed that those ancient societies of believers regulated their affairs, related to deity, and transmitted their values and heritage to succeeding generations through books and records. Reading and study were considered to have divine approval and provisions were made for the illiterate so they would enjoy the same benefits. Reading was also an active, searching process, closely equated with righteousness and was used in ceremonies of worship. Furthermore, it was through books of divine command and especially prophecy that the community maintained its conviction of a unique, favored status with God. (HOD)

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History of Reading: A Bible Corpus for Reading Professionals

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History of Reading: A Bible Corpus for Reading Professionals

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The Bible is an old book. For most readers it is a statement of religious belief, compelling personal imperatives, and divine history. For others, it is a secular source of literature or perhaps psychology or sociology. For still others, the Bible may be a record of myth, fable, and delusion.

Irrespective of these labels and religious points of view, what does the Bible contain relevant to reading educators with interests in history?

This question and a computerized text of the 1611 King James Bible generated the present study. Its purpose was to identify and make available reading-related Bible references to interested reading teachers. The study recognizes in most educational settings the separation of church and state, but acknowledges the interests in the Bible of many reading professionals whatever they may be.

Research Methodology

Using words extracted from Bible concordances and student papers, 49 reading-related terms were identified. Such words as "read," "book," "word," "study," "language," etc., when entered into the computer, generated about 4800 references. Thirteen annotated reference lists organized by topic were then constructed from those passages considered to have substantial relevance to the teaching of reading. The most cogent references were placed at the beginning of each list. The thirteen topics, all considered familiar to reading teachers, include the following: Reading teachers;

Importance of Reading; Reading Purposes and Promises; Effects of Reading; Reading Difficulty; Language and Words; Reading Comprehension; Readiness; Methods; Research, Writing, and Publication; Readability; Reading and Christ; and Censorship and Related. Some references on the list are found under more than one heading. Content and language of the references and their annotations are to some degree influenced by the seventeenth century language usage and biases of the King James version translators.

Since this corpus of references contains a large and diverse content, some of the topics are briefly presented by way of introduction. However, the ideas and content are best considered by direct reading of the Biblical text rather than through commentary or secondary interpretation about them. The overview that follows, therefore, should not be considered much more than a highlighted invitation to read for oneself.

Overview of the Corpus

Books and records, especially in the Old Testament, were used for many purposes. For example, Israelite society was organized by its genealogical records. "So all Israel were reckoned by genealogies; and behold they were written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah" (1 Chronicles 9:1). The people were divided into tribes according to their descent from the sons of Jacob whose name was changed to Israel. Since priestly and royal status were assigned to the tribes of Levi and Judah respectively and some offices were inherited, genealogical records of ancestry were important. These records were also used as a reference to preserve the racial and lineal purity of both religious and royal leadership. In the time of Ezra, for example, certain priests "sought their register among those that

were reckoned by genealogy but it was not found. Therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood" (Nehemiah 7:64).

The most dramatic event of a book being used to regulate the society occurred in King Josiah's time, about 621 B.C. In three accounts (2 Chronicles 34:18-33; 2 Kings 23:1-25; 2 Kings 22:8-20) Josiah read the book of the covenant to "all the people both small and great" and was commended with the greatest of commendations: "And like unto him, there was no king before him . . . neither after him arose there any like him." Discovered in the ruins of the temple, this book of the covenant convinced Josiah that his people had fallen into an apostate condition. The young king promptly reformed the society in the observance of its religious practices and restored the people to a condition of righteousness. The reader sympathizes with the struggles of the king as he comes to understand the problems of his people as the book is read to him by Shaphan, the scribe. With great feeling Josiah agonizes over their situation and sets a course to make matters better. Because of his efforts, the judgments of God were temporarily suspended and the nation enjoyed a time of prosperity--all because of their attention to this book.

Because of their power and influence, kings were given special admonitions to read--specifically in the book of the law which governed and regulated Old Testament society after the time of Moses. Referring to the king, two passages speak of reading requirements of the royal office.

> This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written

> therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success (Joshua 1:8).

And similarly,

> And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them: That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel (Deut 17:19-20).

In addition to organizing and regulating society, other records concerning judgment of the living and the dead are prominently mentioned. These books were records kept in heaven recording the acts of mortality. "And I saw the dead; small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works" (Rev 20:12). The most important significance is attached to these books. Indeed, as indicated by many references, the greatest conceivable tragic event that can befall mortal man is being "blotted out" of the book of life and not being written or included with the righteous (Psalms 69:28). This signified loss of approved religious status and eternal excommunication. Or as ominously stated in the New Testament: "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Rev 20:15). In this respect, an especially touching event is

recorded in Exodus 32 when Moses pleads with the Lord for his sinful people, asks for their forgiveness, and in an ultimatum to deity, requests that his own name be blotted out if that forgiveness is not granted.

The great esteem in which the basic records and books were held is indicated in several references. As before indicated, individuals were to be judged by them. "To the [written] law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:20). Similarly, in the New Testament, Paul stressed emphatically the authority of his own letters: "And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed" (2 Thess 3:14). The original records also had special status and were believed to have been written by the finger of God himself upon Mount Sinai (Exodus 31:18). Copies were made by others including Moses and Joshua, given to the Levite Priests, and in their original form preserved in the Ark of the Covenant and the Holy of Holies in the temple, the most sacred place in Israelite society. The permanence and value of these and other records is indicated by such references as "and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever" (Isaiah 30:8) and "the word which he commanded to a thousand generations" (Psalms 105:8). Books, actually scrolls or sometimes termed "sticks" (Jeremiah 36:2, Ezekiel 37:16-17), were also venerated in religious worship and represented the covenants between God and man. Symbolically, as recorded in two references (Hebrews 9:19-20; Exodus 24:4,7-8), Moses in a religious ceremony sprinkles the book and the people with sacrificial blood as a witness of their intent to follow the contents of the book. Similarly, much later in Jeremiah's time, the divine command was to "Write thee all the words that I have spoken

unto thee in a book" (Jeremiah 30:2). No wonder the respect and reverence with which books and records of this type were held. The later New Testament injunctions to "give attendance to reading" (I Timothy 4:13), "study to show thyself approved of God" (2 Timothy 2:15) and "search the scriptures" (John 5:39) are better understood in this light.

To a largely illiterate people, especially in old testament times, reading was of necessity presented orally in large groups. Future kings were told through Moses and Joshua to assemble the people every seven years in the seventh month during the Feast of the Tabernacles and to read to them from the book of the law (Deut 31:9-13). Apparently this was done for several hours at a time, the people listening in a standing posture as their leaders read and taught from this book. In Ezra's time, about 440 B.C., the reading was verbatim with some instructional explanation. The people were guided and given "the sense and caused to understand the reading" (Nehemiah 8:8) by their teachers who read to them in such settings. The people were attentive and sometimes deeply touched. "For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law" (Nehemiah 8:9). Women, children, and strangers, in effect "all Israel" was expected to attend. The reader is referred to the eighth chapter of Nehemiah for the most detailed account of oral reading to the people. Parents also were enjoined to teach their children, carry written fragments of the law attached to their person, and write them upon the posts of their houses. "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down and when thou riseth up" (Deut 6:7).

Biblical use of reading as an instructional tool is well-evidenced by Christ, the central figure of the New Testament. His teaching approach repeatedly called direct attention to reading and literature familiar to both followers and critics. Subjects such as sabbath observance (Luke 6:3), divorce (Matt 19:7), and resurrection (Matt 22:31) among others were discussed in the context of older and well-known written information on the same subjects. Rebuttals to his questioning critics were reprimands for their intentions or lack of knowledge about their own historical and religious literature. "Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures . . . " (Matt 22:29). Apparently they weren't up on their reading, didn't understand it, or failed to see its relevance. Interesting also is his detailed knowledge of the Old Testament writings, knowledge that according to the account became a carefully followed guide for his own life (Luke 24:44). Consider also, the many listed references to his statements which are repeated in modern reading classrooms: "Have ye not read" (Matt 12:3), "whoso readeth, let him understand" (Matt 24:15), or "how readest thou?" (Luke 10:26). The wording may not be precisely the same but the concerns they tap are basic to all reading instruction.

A Biblical perspective on reading comprehension is best pursued by tracking by computer the word "understanding" throughout the text. An overview of the listed references in the appendix suggests a dimension of comprehension not considered in current discussions of organization of text, schema theory, or lists of comprehension subskills. Several references speak of individuals who are exposed to the spoken and, by implication, the written word but though they see, they do not perceive or understand. Conversely, some possess a gift, "the eyes of [their] understanding being

enlightened" (Ephesians 1:18), or an ability to discern or comprehend things others do not. "Neglect not the gift which is in thee, and which was given thee. . ." (1 Timothy 4:14). This gift is interconnected with what is called in Job 32:8 "the spirit in man" and contrasted with what is termed the "natural man" in 1 Cor 2:9-16. Perceptual differences well-known in psychology and education are thus recognized between individuals. These differences in cognitive processes are further explained by a cited prophecy from Isaiah (Matt 13:10-16). In this contrast the nemesis is spiritual blindness, or "the vail upon their heart" (2 Cor 3:14-16) affecting learning, listening, and reading comprehension. It is associated with good and evil as well as teachableness, and its opposite, "hardness of heart." Schema theorists and developmental psychologists, however, will find more compatible ideas in other references that suggest that background experience and prior learning influence readiness to learn and comprehend. The ideas also of "milk before meat" are useful in terms of their "line upon line, precept upon precept" approach to teaching and learning (Hebrews 5:12-14; Isaiah 28:10).

The often repeated phrase, "whoso readeth, let him understand" seems to have application to much more than literal surface meaning. The acquisition of deeper ideas is implied and the understanding of those ideas is reserved for or has been earned by a special few. In another reference (John 7:17) knowledge and understanding seems to go beyond cognitive processes. It is related to the obedience of the faithful. Knowing and understanding are in this manner related to actions, lifestyles, and values. Those interested can pursue this topic further under the headings referring to comprehension and reading difficulty.

Less abstract and more susceptible to literary analysis are the effects of reading. Scattered verses in Psalm 119 are perhaps the best references. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path". Also, "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." And "How sweet are thy words unto my taste! Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" (Psalms 119, 105, 130, 103).

Reading purposes also receive much Biblical attention. The list is not the same as those of modern education textbooks but it is not totally unfamiliar. Hope, reproof, doctrine, correction, instruction, wisdom, counsel, knowledge, prosperity, memory, joy, exhortation, belief and discernment are among those mentioned in the list under that heading. It would not be difficult to find these words or their close counterparts in many contemporary reading or teacher training classrooms. Their relevance to bibliotherapy, a well-known psychological and educational practice, is evident.

Summary

In sum, there is much in the Bible that may have interest for reading professionals. These ancient societies of believers regulated their affairs, related to deity, and transmitted their values and heritage to succeeding generations through books and records. Reading and study were considered to have divine approval and provisions were made for the illiterate so they would enjoy the same benefits. Reading was also an active searching process closely equated with righteousness and was used in ceremonies of worship. Books in the Old and New Testaments were both sacred and functional, witness the vast detail of the Mosaic code and the practical advice of the Pauline epistles. Comprehension and understanding were

related to a specific way of life and contrasted with the ignorance of spiritual blindness that would lead to apostasy. And reading could also be a joyful experience, as evidenced by the majestic poetry of the Psalms as preserved by King James English, and the promised effects of diligent study. "Blessed is he that readeth and . . . keep those things which are written therein", states John in the New Testament (Rev 1:3). Furthermore, it was through books of divine command and especially prophecy that these societies maintained their conviction of a unique, favored status with God. This was a God who was stern but just, one who commanded reading and then strict obedience to what was read. This was also a God who like a loving parent watched over and yearned after his covenant nation. If they would but follow his written commandments, his promise was tenderly extended to all: "I . . . will be your God, and ye will be my people" (Leviticus 26:12).

As it is apparent for the modern reading professional, the Bible has much that is relevant to reading, especially in the historical context of teaching values. However, to shift the focus to the present, more practical education applications of this list are possible. For example, the adult basic reading teacher who has a parent desirous of learning how to read religious material to her children might find within these lists a phrase to motivate and encourage reading instruction. Relating instruction to the learner's background or needs in this manner can help both teachers and students obtain their goals in reading. Allusions to religion or religious literature, however, should be pursued with tact and sensitivity, especially in light of education policies that affect the rights of individuals and the circumstances of instruction.

Further discussion and other references are left to individual preference. For the interested, however, this Bible corpus or list of references can provide a point of departure if not one of complete agreement.

BIBLE REFERENCES FOR READING TEACHERS

Reading Teachers

Nehemiah 8:8	The people read law of God and are caused to understand
Acts 8:30-31	Eunuch not understanding, asks Philip to help him
Deut 6:1-2,6-7	Teach God's commandments and laws
Exodus 24:12	Law given to Moses and written so he could teach it
Luke 24:27	Christ expounds scriptures on road to Emmaus
Luke 24:45	Christ opens their understanding
Luke 24:32	Hearts of listeners burned while scriptures expounded
Acts 17:2	Paul reasons out of scriptures for three days
Acts 18:28	Apollos shows by the scriptures that Jesus is Christ
Ezra 7:10	Ezra prepares his heart to seek and teach God's law
Deut 31:9-13	Gather people and teach them the law
Deut 4:1-2,5-14 40, 44-45	Teach people that they may teach their children

Importance of Reading

1 Timothy 4:13	Give attendance to reading
Rev 1:3	Blesseth is he that readeth
Isaiah 34:16	Seek ye out of the book of the Lord and read
1 Kings 8:56	Not one word of the promise of Moses failed by God
Deut 17:18-20	King must study the laws of God daily
1 Thess 5:27	Charge to read this epistle to all the brethren
Deut 6:6-9	Law taught to children and bound to hands and head
Joshua 1:8	Joshua commanded to meditate upon the law and keep it
Isaiah 8:20	Speak according to God's word or no light in them
Hebrews 4:12	Word of God is powerful and is a discerner of thoughts
Malachi 3:16	Book of remembrance written by those that fear the Lord
Rev 20:12	People judged by what is written in the books
John 12:48	The word that I have spoken shall judge him
Exodus 32:32-33	Sins forgiven and blotted out of the Lord's book
Psalms 69:28	Wicked are blotted out of the book of the living
Rev 3:5	Whoever shall overcome, his name shall not be blotted out
Philippians 4:3	Fellowlabourers in the gospel are in the book of life
Daniel 12:1	Those delivered that are written in the book
Rev 17:8	Those not written in the book of life go to perdition
Rev 13:8	All whose names are not written in the book shall worship Lord
Rev 21:27	Only those written in the Lamb's book shall enter
Rev 20:15	Those not found in book of life cast into lake of fire
John 5:39	Search the scriptures, they testify of Christ
Jeremiah 30:2	Jeremiah commanded to write all God's words in a book
Daniel 9:2	Daniel's understanding came by the books
Isaiah 30:8	Write in a book for the time to come
Isaiah 40:8	Word of our God shall stand for ever
1 Peter 1:25	The word of the Lord endureth forever
1 Chronicles 16:15	Be mindful of the Lord's covenant
Psalms 105:8	The Lord remembers his covenant for ever
Mark 13:31	Heaven and earth shall pass away but not Christ's words
Matt 24:35	Heaven and earth shall pass away but not Christ's words
Psalms 119:160	Word of God is true from the beginning
Proverbs 30:5	Word of God is pure; a shield to those who trust in him

Importance of Reading (continued)

Psalms 119:140	Word of God is pure that his servants love it
Psalms 12:6	Words of the Lord are pure as silver tried in a furnace
Ecclesiastes 12:10	Preacher sought acceptable words, words of truth
Rev 1:19	John commanded to write what he sees
Rev 19:9	John commanded to write of the Lamb's marrige supper
Rev 1:11	John commanded to write what he sees and send it
Galatians 1:20	Paul writes and lies not
Joshua 8:30-35	Words of law, both blessings and cursings, are read
Psalms 147:18	The Lord sendeth out his word
Deut 29:9	Keep words of covenant and prosper
Exodus 34.27	Moses commanded to write the words of the covenant
Deut 9:10	God gives Moses tables of stone
Deut 29:1	Words of the covenant made with Israel
Deut 31:9-13	Gather people and teach them the law
2 Kings 17:37	Observe to keep the law which the Lord wrote for them
Deut 28:58	Observe to keep all the words of this law
Deut 30:9-11	Blessings come from keeping the statutes
Joshua 23:6	Be courageous in keeping law of Moses
Joshua 24:26	Joshua writes the covenant in the book of the law
1 Kings 2:3	David charges Solomon to keep God's statutes
Deut 8:3	Man does not live by bread only, but by God's word
Jeremiah 25:13	Judgment brought against the land according to the word
Galatians 3:10	Cursed are those who do not continue in the word
Deut 27:26	Those who do not the words of the law are cursed
Exodus 24:3,7-8	Moses reads covenant and Israel promises obedience
Deut 31:26-27	Book of law put in ark as a witness
Deut 4:13	Ten commandments written on tables of stone
Zechariah 1:6	Lord deals with men according to their doings
1 Chron 9:1	Israel reckoned by genealogies written in book of kings
Jeremiah 36:6	Baruch commanded to read the word of the Lord to Judah
2 Kings 23:21	Commandment to keep the Passover as it is written
Rev 22:9	Keep these sayings and worship God
Deut 29:20	Curses of this book upon the wicked
Jeremiah 36:8	Baruch reads Jeremiah's prophecies in the Lord's house
Matt 4:4	Man shall not live by bread alone but by word of God
Luke 4:4	Man shall not live by bread alone but by word of God
Matt 22:29	Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God
Mark 12:24	Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God
John 5:47	If one does not believe Moses, he will not believe Christ
Luke 16:31	If they hear not Moses, dead also cannot persuade them
Acts 8:28	Evidence by the scripture that Jesus is the Christ
Luke 9:26	Whoever is ashamed of Christ's words, Christ will be ashamed of
Mark 8:38	Whoever is ashamed of Christ's words, Christ will be ashamed of
1 Samuel 10:25	Samuel writes the manner of the kingdom in a book
Psalms 19:7	The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul
Nehemiah 7:5	Nehemiah finds a register of genealogy of his people
John 8:31	If ye continue in my word, ye are my disciples

Reading Purposes and Promises

Deut 30:9-11	Plenteous blessings in every work if we keep commandments
Deut 31:26	Book of the law placed in the Ark of the Covenant

Reading Purposes and Promises (continued)

Isaiah 30:8	Write in a book for time to come for ever
Deut 28:58	Observe to keep all the words of this law
Deut 17:19-20	The king must study the laws of God daily
Joshua 1:8	Joshua commanded to meditate upon the law and keep it
Deut 29:9	Keep the words of this covenant that ye may prosper
1 Kings 2:1-4	Solomon commanded by David to observe what was written
Exodus 17:14	Moses commanded to write for a memorial in a book
Rev 1:3	Blesseth is he that reads, hears and keeps the law
Rev 22:7	Blesseth is he that keeps the sayings of this book
2 Timothy 2:15	Study to show thyself approved of God
1 Thess 4:11	Study to be quiet, to do your own business
2 Timothy 3:16	Scripture given by inspiration of God for instruction
Acts 17:11	Brethren received the word with readiness of mind
2 Timothy 3:15	From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures
Romans 15:4	Whatsoever written aforetime was for our learning
Proverbs 22:20-21	Things written excellent for thy counsel and knowledge
Proverbs 30:5	Every word of God is pure; a shield to those who trust in him
Proverbs 9:6	Forsake the foolish and live; go in the way of understanding
1 John 1:4	We write that your joy might be full
2 Cor 2:9	Paul writes to find if the Saints are obedient
2 Cor 7:12	Paul writes to show his care for the Saints in the sight of God
1 John 2:1	I write that ye sin not
Jude 1:3	It was needful to write to encourage the Saints
Habakkuk 2:2	Habakkuk commanded to write the vision
John 20:30-31	Things written that we might believe in Christ
Exodus 34:27	Moses commanded to write the words of the covenant
2 Cor 1:13	Paul writes only what is read and acknowledged
2 Peter 3:1-2	Be mindful of the words spoken by the prophets
John 15:7	If my words abide in you, ask what you will and it shall be
Isaiah 28:13	Word of the Lord given precept upon precept, line upon line
Hebrews 13:22	I beseech you, brethren, to suffer the word of exhortation
Psalms 119:105	Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path
Psalms 119:103	Sweet are thy words
Psalms 119:130	Thy words give light and understanding to the simple
2 Thess 3:14	Keep not company with those who disobey this epistle
Psalms 119:162	I rejoice at thy word
Psalms 119:161	I stand in awe of thy word
2 Cor 10:11	Our actions will verify our words
Esther 1:20,22	Letters sent to all after their own language
Jeremiah 32:12	Jeremiah purchases land and records it officially in book
Deut 29:29	Revelations help us and our children do words of the law
Mark 8:38	If we are ashamed of his words, he will be ashamed of us
Luke 9:26	If we are ashamed of his words, he will be ashamed of us
1 Thess 2:13	Receive word of God as truth, not as the word of men
Esther 3:14	Letters sent out to Jews that they should be ready for the day
1 Timothy 1:4	Don't give heed to fables and endless genealogies
2 Cor 2:4	Paul writes to learn if Saints have been obedient
John 8:31	If ye continue in my word, ye are my disciples

Effects of Reading

2 Kings 23:1-25	Josiah reads covenant to people, stops worship of false gods
2 Kings 22:8-20	Josiah reads book, sorrows, and turns away wrath of God
2 Chron 34:18-33	Josiah causes book to be read and people covenant to serve God
Nehemiah 8:1-18	Ezra reads people the law of Moses and they rejoice
Nehemiah 13:1-3	People hear the law and separate Ammonites from Moabites
Jeremiah 51:60-64	Judgments and destruction predicted because of Babylon's sins
Daniel 5:7-31	Daniel interprets writing on the wall concerning Babylon's fall
Esther 9	Protection of Jews celebrated and put in writing to continue
Ezekiel 2:9-10;3	Ezekiel sees a book, is called to take word of God to Israel
Acts 15:23-29	Paul sends letters instructing the Saints
Ezekiel 37:15-22	Commandment to write one stick for Judah and another for Joseph
Numbers 5:11-31	Law written and executed for an adulterous wife
Isaiah 29:11-14,18	Sealed book is unreadable, delivered to unlearned to read
Isaiah 37:14-38	Hezekiah reads letters and learns prophecy of Assyrian defeat
Isaiah 38:9-22	Hezekiah writes his feelings about death while sick
Rev 5:1-10	Rejoicing when the Lamb appears who is worthy to read the book
Jeremiah 45:1-5	Jeremiah writes to Baruch that his life will be preserved
Jeremiah 36	Baruch writes Jeremiah's prophecies, Jehoiakim burns the book
Jeremiah 29:1-29	Jeremiah's letter prepares people for 70 years of captivity
Esther 9:20-32	Letters sent out to establish this day as a day of rejoicing
Acts 15:31	Epistles from apostles read, people rejoice for consolation
Exodus 24:7-8	Moses reads the book of the covenant and people promise to obey
Nehemiah 9:3	Jews read the book of the law, confess and worship
Acts 13:15	After reading the law, synagogue rulers invite Paul to speak
2 Kings 14:6	Amaziah obeys the law which is written
Jeremiah 16:10	Word shall act as a witness to the people of their iniquity
Deut 29:27	Lord's anger kindled to bring upon people curses in the book
2 Chron 6:10	The Lord keeps his word to Solomon
Deut 27:3	Write law upon the great stones, then enter the promised land
2 Chron 6:17	Let thy word be verified which thou has spoken to David
John 5:47	If ye believe not Moses, how shall ye believe my words?
Psalms 147:18	The Lord sendeth out his word and causes the wind to blow
Psalms 119:103,130	Sweet are his words; they give light and understanding
Deut 29:21	Lord shall separate him unto evil according to curses written
Jeremiah 25:13	Lord will bring upon the land the curses that are written
Jeremiah 23:29	Is not my word like as a fire, and like a hammer?
Ezra 2:62	Children of priests whose genealogy is lost denied priesthood
Nehemiah 7:63-64	Children of priests whose genealogy is lost denied priesthood
John 8:31	If ye continue in my word, ye are my disciples
2 Cor 2:4	Paul writes out of affliction to show his love
2 Cor 2:9	Paul writes to learn if Saints have been obedient

Reading Difficulty

2 Peter 3:15-16	The unlearned wrest scriptures to their destruction
Matt 13:10-11,13-16	Jesus taught parables because people don't see or hear
Isaiah 44:18	People do not understand; eyes and hearts are shut
John 12:40	Eyes are blind and hearts are hard that people don't understand
Ephesians 4:18	Understanding is darkened; ignorance due to blindness
1 Cor 2:14	Natural man cannot receive the things of the Spirit of God
2 Cor 3:14-16	Vail over the heart keeps man from understanding
2 Cor 4:4	Minds of them that believe not are blinded to Christ's gospel

Reading Difficulty (continued)

Jeremiah 6:10	Their ear is uncircumcised and they cannot hearken
Jeremiah 8:9	Wisemen are ashamed, dismayed; they reject word of the Lord
Mark 7:13	Tradition makes word of God of no effect
Luke 16:29-31	People won't hear Moses, nor one who rose from the dead
John 5:47	If ye believe not Moses, how shall ye believe my words?
Hosea 8:12	Great things of law written, but counted as strange things
2 Peter 1:20-21	No prophecy of scripture is of any private interpretation
Jeremiah 11:8	People obeyed not; walked in imagination of their evil heart
Amos 8:12	People shall seek the word of the Lord and not find it
John 20:30	Jesus did other signs which disciples saw but are not written
John 21:25	Jesus did other signs that are not written
Jeremiah 23:36	Some are prophets of the deceit of their own heart
2 Cor 2:17	More people corrupt the word of God than love God
Acts 8:30-31	Philip asks eunuch if he understands; eunuch asks his help
Hebrews 4:2	The word preached but of no profit, not being mixed with faith
Isaiah 8:20	They speak not according to the word; there is no light in them
Daniel 12:4	Daniel commanded to seal book to the end
Isaiah 29:11-12	Learned man cannot read sealed book; unlearned cannot read it
Matt 22:29	Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God
Mark 12:24	Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God
John 20:9	They knew not the scripture, that he must rise from the dead
Rev 5:4	No man found worthy to read the book
John 5:38	Ye have not his word abiding in you, ye believe him not

Language and Words

Genesis 11:1,6,7,9	Only one language; God confounds language because of tower
Zephaniah 3:9	At Second Coming, people will have a pure language
Acts 2:6	At Pentecost every man heard them speak in his own language
Psalms 119:130	Entrance of thy words giveth light and understanding
Proverbs 1:2	Know wisdom and instruction, perceive words of understanding
Ecclesiastes 12:10	Preacher sought acceptable words, words of truth
1 Cor 14:9	We should utter words easy to be understood
Habakkuk 2:2	Write the vision plainly that he may run that readeth it
Psalms 12:6	Words of the Lord are pure words, as silver tried in a furnace
Proverbs 30:5	Every word of God is pure, a shield unto those who trust him
John 6:63	The spirit quickeneth, the flesh profiteth nothing
Job 6:25	How forcible are right words! but what doth arguing reprove?

Reading Comprehension

Mark 13:14	Let him that read, understand
Matt 24:15	Whoso readeth, let him understand
Proverbs 9:10	The knowledge of the holy is understanding
Ephesians 3:4	When ye read, ye may understand my knowledge of Christ
Daniel 9:2	I, Daniel, understood by the books
Acts 17:11	They received the word with readiness of mind and searched
1 Thess 2:13	Receive word of God as from God, not as the word of men
Joshua 1:8	Meditate day and night on the book of the law to have success
Psalms 119:148	Meditate on the word of God before night watches
Ephesians 4:22,23	Put off the corrupt man; be renewed in the spirit of your mind
Hebrews 4:2	Word preached, did not profit as it was not mixed with faith

Reading Comprehension (continued)

Psalsm 119:130	The entrance of thy words giveth light and understanding
Proverbs 3:13	Happy is the man that findeth wisdom and getteth understanding
Proverbs 16:22	Understanding is a wellspring of life to him that has it
Proverbs 2:2	Incline thine ear to wisdom, apply thine heart to understanding
Proverbs 28:5	They that seek the Lord understand all things
Proverbs 1:2	To know wisdom and instruction, perceive words of understanding
Proverbs 3:5	Trust in God; lean not unto thine own understanding
1 Cor 2:9-16	God reveals knowledge by his spirit
Job 32:8	Inspiration of Almighty giveth understanding
Colossians 1:9	We desire that ye might be filled with knowledge of his will
Job 38:36	Who puts wisdom in the inward parts, or understanding to heart?
1 Cor 12:8	Spirit gives to one the word of wisdom, to another knowledge
Ephesians 1:18	The eyes of your understanding being enlightened, know hope
Luke 24:32,45	Their hearts burned while he opened the scriptures to them
John 6:63	The spirit quickeneth, the flesh profiteth nothing
1 Chron 28:19	David made to understand by the Lord's writing upon him
Psalms 119:169	Give me understanding according to thy word
Deut 29:4	The Lord hath not given you an heart to perceive
Jeremiah 31:33	Lord will put law in their inward parts, write it in hearts
Hebrews 8:10	Lord will put law in their inward parts, write it in hearts
Hebrews 10:16	Lord will put law in their inward parts, write it in hearts
2 Cor 3:2	Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all
2 Cor 3:3	Ye are our epistle, written not with ink but with the Spirit
Proverbs 7:3	Bind commandments upon fingers, write them upon thine heart
Jeremiah 17:1	Sin of Judah is written with an iron pen, graven upon hearts
Rev 10:8-10	John takes book and eats it, sweet to taste but bitter in belly
Ezekiel 2:9,3:3	Ezekiel eats book, sweet to taste
Psalms 119:103	Sweet are thy words unto my taste!
2 Peter 3:15-16	These things hard to understand; some wrest them to destruction
John 5:38	Ye have not his word abiding in you, ye believe him not

Readiness

Acts 17:11	They received the word with readiness
2 Cor 8:11	Readiness and will precede performance
Esther 3:14	Commandment sent out that people would be ready for the day
Isaiah 28:10	People receive precept upon precept as they are ready
Psalms 10:17	Lord will prepare their heart and cause ear to hear
Job 11:13	Lord will prepare heart and stretch out hand toward them
1 Chron 29:18	Lord, prepare the hearts of the people unto thee
2 Chron 20:33	People had not prepared their hearts unto God
2 Cor 9:3-4	We should be ashamed to come and find you unprepared
Rev 5:2,4,9,12	Worthy people not found to open the book until Christ comes
Hebrews 4:2	Preaching did not profit them, faith not being mixed with it
Esther 8:13	Commandment published to all people so Jews ready to defend
1 Thess 2:13	Ye received the word as the word of God and not man

Methods

John 20:9	They knew not the scripture that he should rise from the dead
Mark 12:24	Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God
Matt 22:29	Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God

Methods (continued)

John 5:47	If ye believe not words of Moses, how shall ye believe Christ?
Proverbs 28:5	They that see the Lord understand all things
Hebrews 5:12-14	One needs milk before meat
Isaiah 28:10	Knowledge must be learned precept by precept
Jeremiah 36:17,18	Baruch writes the prophecies of Jeremiah as he speaks them
Jeremiah 23:18	Stood in counsel, perceived and heard words of the Lord
Proverbs 2:2	Incline thine ear to wisdom and apply heart to understanding
Proverbs 22:17	Hear the words of the wise; apply thine heart to my knowledge

Research, Writing, Publication

Ecclesiastes 12:12	There is no end of making many books; much study is weariness
Ecclesiastes 1:18	Wisdom is grief, increasing knowledge increases sorrow
2 Timothy 3:7	Men are ever learning and yet never come to knowledge of truth
1 Thess 5:21	Prove all things, hold fast to that which is good
Galatians 6:4	Let every man prove his own work and have rejoicing in himself
2 Cor 9:13	By the experiment of this ministration they glorify God
Deut 27:8	Thou shalt write upon the stones all the words of this law
Rev 1:19	Write the things which thou has seen
Rev 19:9	Write the true sayings of God
Rev 21:5	Write: for these words are true and faithful
Joshua 8:32	Joshua wrote upon the stones a copy of the law of Moses
Deut 31:9	Moses wrote the law and delivered it to the priests of the ark
Exodus 31:18	Lord gives Moses two tables of testimony, tables of stone
Deut 5:22	Commandments written in stone, Moses gives them to congregation
Exodus 32:15-16	Tables were the writing of God
Exodus 34:1	Moses hews new tables of stone, God writes on them again
Exodus 34:28	Moses fasts 40 days, writes upon tables the covenant
Deut 9:10	Two tables of stone written on and delivered
Deut 10:2	Two tables written on again and placed in ark
Exodus 24:4,7,8	Moses writes and reads the word of the Lord to people
Deut 17:18	Write a copy of the law in a book
Exodus 31:18	Moses given two tables of stone, tables of testimony
Deut 27:2-3	Write law and go into promised land
Deut 31:24	Moses wrote all the words of this law in a book
Joshua 24:26	Joshua wrote the words of the law, set it by the sanctuary
Proverbs 7:3	Bind the commandments on fingers and write them in heart
Jeremiah 17:1	Sin of Judah written upon their heart
2 Cor 3:2-3	Ye are our epistle, written with the spirit
Job 19:23-24	Oh that my words were written and printed in a book!
1 John 2:13	Paul writes to all ages of people, young and old
Rev 1:11	What thou seest, write in a book and send to 7 churches
Malachi 3:16	A book of remembrance written for those that fear the Lord
Jeremiah 36:32	Jeremiah gave another roll to Baruch who wrote his words
Jeremiah 36:2	Jeremiah commanded to write the words God spoke against Israel
1 John 2:7	Paul writes no new commandment, but the word had from beginning
Jeremiah 36:17-18	Baruch writes Jeremiah's words
Jeremiah 36:4	Baruch writes the words of the Lord which Jeremiah spoke
Jeremiah 30:2	The Lord commands Jeremiah to write all of his words
Hebrews 10:16	The Lord will put his laws in hearts and minds of people
Hebrews 8:10	The Lord will put his laws in hearts and minds of people
Jeremiah 31:33	The Lord will put his laws in hearts and minds of people

Research, Writing, Publication (continued)

Isaiah 30:8	Write in a book for the time to come for ever
Deut 4:13	The Lord's word written upon stone
2 Chron 36:22	Cyrus made proclamations put in writing
John 19:22	Pilate answered, What I have written I have written
Jeremiah 50:2	Declare and publish the destruction of Babylon
Isaiah 52:7	How beautiful are those that publish peace and salvation
Nahum 1:15	How beautiful are those that publish peace and salvation
Mark 13:10	The gospel must first be published among all nations
Psalms 26:7	That I may publish thy works with the voice of thanksgiving
Deut 32:3	I will publish the name of the Lord and his greatness
Isaiah 2:3	Out of Zion will go the law; out of Jerusalem the Lord's word
Esther 8:13	Commandment given in writing published for Jews to get ready
Esther 3:14	Copy of writing given to every province
Esther 1:20,22	Letters published commanding all wives to give husbands honor
Mark 7:36	Jesus commanded them to tell no one but they published it more
Mark 5:20	It was published in Decapolis the great things Jesus did
Mark 1:45	Healed leper published miracle so many people went to Christ
Amos 4:5	Proclaim and publish the free offerings
Jeremiah 31:7	Sing with gladness, publish and praise the Lord's greatness
Psalms 147:18	The Lord sendeth out his word
Psalms 68:11	The Lord gave the word; great were those that published it
Psalms 147:15	The Lord sendeth forth his commandment upon the earth
Acts 10:37	The word was published through all of Galilee
Acts 13:49	The word of the Lord was published through all the region
Micah 4:2	The word shall go forth out of Zion
Job 31:35	My desire is that mine adversary had written a book
Exodus 39:30	Israel engraves Holiness to the Lord on a gold crown
Ezekiel 43:11	Show them all the ordinances, forms, and laws

Readability

Habakkuk 2:2	Write the vision plainly that he may run that readeth it
Deut 27:8	Thou shalt write the words of the law plainly upon the stones
1 Cor 14:9	Utter words easy to be understood

Reading and Christ

Luke 10:26	What is written in the law? how readest thou?
Luke 4:16-21	Christ reads Esaias in the synagogue; identifies his own role
Luke 4:1-13	Christ answers temptations with "It is written . . ."
Matt 4:1-11	Christ answers temptations with "It is written . . ."
John 5:46-47	If people don't believe Moses, how shall they believe Christ?
Luke 3:4-6	John the Baptist quotes Isaiah on Christ
Mark 1:2-3	Prophets quoted concerning Christ
Matt 11:10	Jesus quotes prophecy on John the Baptist
Matt 21:13	It is written, My house shall be called a house of prayer
Matt 26:24	The Son of man goeth as it is written of him; Christ betrayed
Matt 26:31	It is written, shepherd smitten and flock scattered
Mark 7:6	It is written, people honor with lips but heart is far
Mark 9:12	It is written that the Son of man must suffer many things
Mark 11:17	It is written, my house shall be called a house of prayer
Mark 13:14	Let him that readeth understand

Reading and Christ (continued)

Matt 24:15	Whoso readeth, let him understand
Matt 12:10	Have ye not read the scripture; prophecy of Christ
Matt 12:26	Have ye not read in the book of Moses how God spoke to Moses?
Matt 22:31-32	Have ye not read as touching the resurrection of the dead
Matt 21:42	Did ye never read the scripture; prophecy of Christ
Matt 21:16	Have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings
Matt 12:1-5	Have ye not read what David did when he was an hungred?
Mark 2:23-28	Have ye never read what David did when he was an hungred?
Luke 6:1-5	Have ye not read what David did when he was an hungred?
Luke 24:44	All things must be fulfilled which were written in law of Moses
Luke 24:45	Christ opened their understanding, they understood scriptures
Matt 22:23-33	Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God
Mark 12:18-27	Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God
John 21:24-25	Jesus did many things which cannot be written
John 5:39	Search the scriptures, they testify of me
John 20:30-31	These are written that ye might believe Jesus is the Christ
John 15:25	This comes to pass that the word might be fulfilled
Matt 24:35	Heaven and earth shall pass away, my word shall not pass away
Luke 21:33	Heaven and earth shall pass away, my word shall not pass away
Mark 13:31	Heaven and earth shall pass away, my word shall not pass away
Luke 9:26	Who is ashamed of my word, of him will I be ashamed
John 6:63	The words I speak unto you, they are spirit and life
John 12:48	The words that I have spoken, the same shall judge you
John 8:31	If ye continue in my word, ye are my disciples
John 5:38	Ye have not his word abiding in you, ye believe him not

Censorship and Related

Deut 4:2	Ye shall not add nor diminish to the word I give you
Rev 22:18-19	God shall curse him who adds or takes away from these words
Ezra 6:11	Whoever shall alter this word shall be destroyed
Acts 19:19	Books of curious arts burned before all men
Jeremiah 36:27	After the king burned the roll, the Lord spoke to Jeremiah
Jeremiah 36:23-32	Jehoiakim burns the roll, Baruch writes another
Exodus 32:32-33	Moses asked God to forgive them or blot him out of his book
Deut 29:20	The Lord shall blot out names of disobedient from under heaven
Psalms 69:28	Let them be blotted out of the book of the living
Daniel 12:1,4,9	People delivered whose name written in the book
Rev 22:10	Commandment not to seal the sayings of the prophecy of the book
Isaiah 29:11	This vision is as the words of a sealed book
Proverbs 30:6	Add not to his words, lest he reprove thee and thou be a liar
Deut 12:32	Do not add to or diminish from Lord's commandments
Rev 10:4	John commanded not to write
Esther 8:8	When writing is sealed with the king's ring cannot be reversed
Rev 3:5	He that overcometh, I will not blot out his name